

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims submitted in the present application.

Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A method of authenticating end-user clients
2 requiring access to services available in a computer-based communication
3 system, comprising the steps of:
 - 4 a) at an authentication server connected in said communication
5 system, defining a list of authentication modules available in said
6 communication system, and mapping said authentication modules to
7 authenticating domain identifiers associated to end-user clients of said
8 authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain identifiers each
9 comprise an application service identifier;
 - 10 b) sending, by an end-user client, a respective authentication domain
11 identifier to said authentication server;
 - 12 c) creating, by the authentication server and depending on the
13 authentication domain identifier, an authentication stack specific to said end-
14 user client, said stack comprising one or more stack entries, each mapped to a
15 respective authentication module;

16 d) rendering, for each stack entry and depending thereon, an
17 authentication service provided at said respective authentication module to
18 produce an authentication result for that entry; and
19 e) consolidating authentication results to obtain an authentication status for
20 the end-user client.

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2-3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 authentication service includes local and remote services.

1 5. (Original) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein the local and
2 remote services include but are not limited to biometric schemes,
3 cryptographic hardware services, smart cards and USB tokens.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1 further
2 comprising, sending a unique session identifier to the end-user client
3 responsive to an authentication status corresponding to a successful
4 authentication.

7-8. (Canceled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) A The system as defined in claim 7, for
2 authenticating an end-user client in a computer-based communication system
3 comprising:

4 means, at the end-user client, for sending an authenticating domain
5 identifier to an authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain
6 identifier comprises an application service identifier;

7 means, at the authentication server and depending on the
8 authentication domain identifier, for creating an authentication stack
9 comprising one or more stack entries;

10 means for rendering, for each stack entry and depending thereon, an
11 authentication service to produce an authentication result for that entry; and

12 means for consolidating authentication results to obtain an
13 authentication status for the end-user client,

14 wherein the authentication server, dependent on the application ID,
15 retrieves a configuration specifying how to create the authentication stack.

10-12. (Canceled)